

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1-11, 13-50.

Add the following Claims 51-108.

SUB C1 }
51. A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system including at least one camera, an automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the camera and at least two control devices capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the camera comprising the steps of:

A. remembering at least one specific field of view position of the camera, each field of view position being associated with a respective control device;

B. issuing a command from one control device;

C. identifying the control device that issued the command in step B; and

D. automatically moving the field of view of the camera to the field of view position remembered in step A and associated with the control device identified in step C.

52. The method of Claim 51 wherein step A includes the steps of:

E. issuing commands from each of the control devices to remember a field of view position of the camera; and

F. remembering the control device that issued the respective command in step E.

53. The method of Claim 52 wherein step D includes the step of:

G. moving the field of view of the camera to the field of view position remembered in step E associated with the remembered control device of step F that issued the respective command.

54. The method of Claim 51 wherein step A includes the step of:
E. remembering the position of the camera field of view with respect to a known reference.

55. The method of Claim 54 wherein step E includes the step of:
F. remembering the position of the camera field of view in a first plane.

56. The method of Claim 54 wherein step E includes the step of:
F. remembering the position of the camera field of view in two planes.

57. The method of Claim 51 wherein step A includes the steps of:
E. remembering specific variables of the camera for each field of view remembered; and
F. automatically recalling the remembered variables when the field of view is recalled in step D.

58. The method of Claim 57 wherein step E includes the step of:
G. remembering the iris setting of the camera field of view.

59. The method of Claim 57 wherein step E includes the step of:
G. remembering the zoom perspective of the camera field of view.

60. The method of Claim 59 further including the step of:
H. automatically maintaining the zoom perspective remembered in step G when the camera field of view is moved in step D.

61. The method of Claim 57 wherein step E includes the steps of:
G. remembering the position of the camera field of view in at least one plane;

H. remembering the zoom perspective of the camera field of view; and

I. remembering the iris setting of the camera field of view.

62. The method of Claim 61 wherein step D includes the steps of:

J. moving the position of the camera field of view to the remembered position of step G;

K. changing the zoom perspective of the camera to the remembered perspective of step H; and

L. changing the iris setting of the camera to the remembered setting of step I.

63. The method of Claim 51 further including the step of:

E. issuing a command to override subsequent commands from other control devices affecting control of the field of view of the camera.

64. The method of Claim 63 further including the step of:

F. issuing a command to restore the responsive capability of the means for controlling the field of view to commands from other control devices.

65. The method of Claim 51 further including the steps of:

E. controlling the field of view variables of the camera;

F. remembering the field of view variables of the camera that are associated with each field of view position remembered in step A; and

G. automatically establishing for the camera the field of view variables remembered in step F for the field of view position remembered in step A whenever the field of view position is recalled.

66. The method of Claim 51 wherein step A includes the step of:

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contd

E. remembering a specific field of view position that can be recalled by a command from any control device.

67. The method of Claim 66 wherein step E includes the step of:

F. issuing a command by a control device to change the field of view to the specific field of view position remembered in step A.

68. A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system including at least two cameras, an automatic control system for controlling the field of view of each camera and at least two control devices capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the respective camera comprising the steps of:

A. remembering at least one field of view position of each camera, each field of view position being associated with a respective control device;

B. issuing a command from a control device;

C. identifying the control device that issued the command in step B;

D. associating each control device with a respective camera; and

E. changing the field of view position of the camera associated with the field of view remembered in step A to provide the field of view position remembered in step A associated with the control device identified in step C.

69. The method of Claim 68 wherein step A includes the steps of:

F. issuing commands from each of the control devices to remember different field of view positions of each camera; and

G. remembering the control device that issued the respective command.

70. The method of Claim 69 further including the step of:

H. automatically recalling the remembered field of view when the field of view is moved in step E.

71. The method of Claim 70 wherein step A includes the step of:

I. remembering the zoom perspective of each camera field of view.

72. The method of Claim 68 further including the steps of:

F. providing by each camera a video output signal; and

G. selectively providing a camera video output signal from a camera.

73. The method of Claim 72 wherein the step G includes the step of:

H. automatically selecting the camera video output signal associated with the camera of step E.

74. The method of Claim 68 wherein step A includes the step of:

F. remembering a specific field of view position that can be recalled by a command from any control device.

75. The method of Claim 74 wherein step F includes the step of:

G. issuing a command by a control device to change the field of view to the specific field of view position remembered in step A.

76. The method of Claim 68 further including the steps of:

F. selectively enabling the transmission of an audio signal associated with one or more control devices; and

G. automatically selecting which control device will transmit an audio signal.

77. The method of Claim 76 further including the step of:

H. automatically selecting the audio signal from the control device identified in step C.

78. The method of Claim 77 wherein step H includes the step of:

I. automatically disabling audio signals associated with the control devices not selected.

79. The method of Claim 76 wherein step G includes the step of:

H. automatically selecting audio signals associated with all control devices wherever any control device is identified in step C.

80. The method of Claim 76 wherein step F includes the steps of:

H. establishing a plurality of groups of control devices; and

I. selectively enabling audio signals associated with at least one group of control devices.

81. The method of Claim 80 wherein step G includes the step of:

J. automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control devices enabled in step H.

82. The method of Claim 80 wherein step H includes the step of:

J. automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control devices to which the control device of step C belongs.

83. The method of Claim 68 further including the steps of:

F. providing an automatic tracking system for the at least two cameras;

G. issuing a second command for automatic tracking of the control device that issued the command of step B; and

H. controlling the field of view in step E to

automatically track the control device of step B.

84. The method of Claim 83 wherein step G includes the step of:

I. issuing a command by a control device to provide the automatic tracking of the control device only for as long as the command is being continuously issued.

85. The method of Claim 83 wherein step B includes the step of:

I. issuing a command by another control device to provide automatic tracking of the other control device and the cessation of automatic tracking of the one control device.

86. The method of Claim 83 further including the steps of:

I. providing by each camera a video output signal; and
J. selectively providing a camera video output signal from a camera.

87. The method of Claim 86 wherein step J includes the step of:

K. automatically selecting the camera video output signal associated with the camera of step D.

88. The method of Claim 83 wherein step A includes the step of:

I. remembering a specific field of view position for at least one of the cameras that can be recalled by a command from any control device.

89. The method of Claim 88 wherein step I includes the step of:

J. issuing a command by any control device to change the field of view to the specific field of view position remembered in step A.

90. The method of Claim 83 further including the step of:

I. issuing a command to override subsequent commands affecting the control of the field of view of the camera.

91. The method of Claim 90 further including the step of:

J. issuing a command to restore the responsive capability to commands from other control devices.

92. The method of Claim 83 further including the steps of:

I. remembering field of view variables for the control device being tracked; and

J. recalling remembered variables when the control device is being automatically tracked.

93. The method of Claim 83 further including the step of:

I. remembering variables associated with automatic tracking of the control device.

94. The method of Claim 93 wherein step I includes the step of:

J. remembering the location in the field of view that the control device is to be maintained during automatic tracking.

95. The method of Claim 83 wherein step G includes the step of:

I. issuing a command by a control device to provide the automatic tracking of the control device only for as long as the command is being continuously issued.

96. The method of Claim 83 wherein step G includes the step of:

I. issuing a command by another control device to provide for automatic tracking of the other control device and the cessation of automatic tracking of the one control device.

97. The method of Claim 83 wherein step H includes the step of:
I. ceasing the automatic tracking of the control device that issued the command when the tracking system has moved to the desired location with the field of view of the camera relative to the control device.

98. The method of Claim 83 further including the steps of:
I. selectively enabling the transmission of an audio signal associated with one or more control device; and
J. automatically selecting which control device will transmit an audio signal.

99. The method of Claim 98 further including the step of:
K. automatically selecting the audio signal from the control device identified in step C.

100. The method of Claim 99 wherein step J includes the step of:
L. automatically disabling audio signals associated with the control device not selected.

101. The method of Claim 98 wherein step J includes the step of:
K. automatically selecting audio signals associated with all control devices wherever any subject is tracked.

102. The method of Claim 98 wherein step J includes the steps of:

J. establishing a plurality of groups of control devices; and

K. selectively enabling audio signals associated with at least one group of control devices.

103. The method of Claim 102 wherein step J includes the step of:

L. automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control devices enabled in step K.

104. The method of Claim 102 wherein step L includes the step of:

M. automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control device to which the control device being tracked belongs.

105. A system for controlling the field of view control variables of any camera in the system comprising at least one camera, automatic control means for adjusting said field of view control variables of said camera and at least two control devices for sending commands to said automatic control means thereby adjusting said field of view, said automatic control means including circuit means for identifying which said control device has sent a command to said automatic control means.

106. The system as defined in Claim 105 wherein said circuit means includes memory means for remembering specific variables associated with each field of view.

107. The system as defined in Claim 105 wherein said automatic control means includes memory means for identifying each said command sent by each said control device, said command including identity information indicative of respective said control device which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering said identify information to enable said field of view to be moved to one of the fields of view remembered.